

HQ AFSOC OPERATIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY. This instruction implements AFPD 10-4, Operations Planning. It identifies command relationships, mission, functions and responsibilities for the Air Force Special Operations Command and its components. This guidance applies to all AFSOC units, to include Air National Guard (ANG) and Air Force Reserve (AFRC) units and assumes mobilization of forces has occurred.

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1. Command Relationships.

1.1. Commander, AFSOC (COMAFSOC) is designated the Air Force component commander of USSOCOM. The Air Force component is under the combatant command (COCOM) of the Commander in Chief, United States Special Operations Command (USCINCSOC). COMAFSOC exercises operational control (OPCON) of all active and reserve component CONUS assigned AFSOF. OPCON of forward deployed forces lies with the respective theater CINC and is normally exercised by the theater special operations command (SOC). Circumstances may require OPCON be exercised by a joint special operations task force (JSOTF) commander reporting directly to the NCA through the CJCS. Further OPCON of special operation forces (SOF) may be exercised directly by a unified, subordinate, joint or functional component commander without intervening levels of command. COMAFSOC will organize commands and forces as necessary to carry out assigned missions. AFSOF Wing, Group and Unit commanders exercise OPCON over their squadrons.

1.2. As the commander of the Air Force component command of USSOCOM, and an Air Force major command (MAJCOM), COMAFSOC is responsible for the administration, training, maintenance, support and readiness of assigned forces including those forces assigned to the operational control of other unified commanders. COMAFSOC, in coordination with USCINCSOC; Commander, Theater Special Operations Command; or Joint Task Force Commander will nominate a Commander, Theater Air Force Special Operations Component (COMAFSOCXXX) to ensure continuity and integration of operations.

1.3. COMAFSOC shall coordinate as necessary with the Chief of Staff, Air Force (CSAF); Director, Air National Guard; Chief of Air Force Reserve; and other Air Force MAJCOMs for support. On Service-specific issues such as personnel, administration, logistics and individual training, COMAFSOC shall communicate with the CSAF, keeping USCINCSOC informed. AFSOF Wing, Group and Unit commanders will coordinate all such requests through HQ AFSOC. EXCEPTION: 193 SOW and 919 SOW will keep HQ AFSOC informed of all such actions.

1.4. COMAFSOC is authorized to establish and maintain liaison with and obtain necessary support from other Services, MAJCOMs, other SOF components and other governmental agencies. This includes

authority to execute necessary Executive Agreements as approved or directed by USCINCSOC. COMAFSOC will advise USCINCSOC as appropriate. AFSOF Wing, Group and Unit commanders will coordinate all such actions with HQ AFSOC.

1.5. As authorized by USCINCSOC Command Arrangement Agreements (CAAs) with all unified combatant commanders, COMAFSOC is authorized direct coordination, planning and liaison with and between theater components and subordinate commanders to ensure AFSOF effectively support, and are supported by, these theater commands. COMAFSOC shall keep USCINCSOC informed of all related actions. CONUS AFSOF Wing, Group and Unit commanders will coordinate all such actions with HQ AFSOC. The 352 SOW and 353 SOW will keep HQ AFSOC informed of all such actions.

1.6. The command and control of AFSOC forces is explained in Annex J and K of theater OPLANS. Although this instruction provides a basic command and control structure, planners must realize each situation is unique and may require some deviation. AFSOC Regulation 28-2, Theater AFSOC UTC Employment, provides additional in-depth guidance on the concept of operations for employing Air Force special operations. Air Force Special Operations Forces (AFSOF), may be organized into a theater Air Force Special Operations Component (AFSOC.) A theater AFSOC is not normally a standing organization but is formed in response to a specific contingency or operation. When a theater AFSOC is formed it is normally named based on the region or contingency (i.e., AFSOCEUR, AFSOCCENT, AFSOCPAC, etc.). The theater AFSOC is responsible for receiving, reviewing and accepting tasking from the controlling SOC or JTF. The AFSOC then tasks subordinate units to plan and execute the mission. The theater AFSOC normally retains operational control of tasked missions from departure to return to home station. Typically, there is only one AFSOC per theater and the theater assigned Air Force Special Operations Wing/Group provides the personnel and organization for the theater AFSOC.

1.7. The commander of AFSOF within a theater of operations is responsible for planning and executing joint special operations aviation and will generally be dual-hatted as the Joint Special Operations Air Component Commander (JSOACC). The JSOACC may be directly subordinate to the theater SOC, to a JSOTF, to a subordinate joint force commander, to any conventional force component, or to a JTF commander, as directed. He is also responsible for overseeing the command and control, operations, logistics, transportation, intelligence, communications, medical, maintenance, and security of assigned AFSOF. The JSOACC is the commander within a SOC, JSOTF, or JTF responsible for planning and executing joint special operations aviation and for coordinating and deconflicting SOF air operations with conventional air operations. The JSOACC will normally be the component commander with the preponderance of aviation forces and who possesses the ability to plan, coordinate, allocate, task, and control the special operations air missions.

2. Mission. The mission of the Air Force Special Operations Command is to organize, train, equip, educate, maintain combat readiness, and deploy assigned Active Component (AC) and Reserve Component (RC) Air Force Special Operations Forces to accomplish SO and PSYOP missions assigned by USCINCSOC and/or regional CINCs employing SOF.

3. Functions and Responsibilities. AFSOF Wing, Group and Unit commands' functions and responsibilities will be accomplished by their units with assistance as required from the HQ AFSOC staff.

3.1. Ensure the highest level of mission readiness of assigned AFSOF.

3.2. Plan, coordinate and when directed, carry out all activities necessary to deploy forces in support of theater OPLANs/CONPLANs and associated deployment documents.

3.3. Inform COMAFSOC of changes to operational capabilities as a result of exercises, deployments and operational commitments as they occur.

3.4. Conduct training and education of AFSOF and other appropriate personnel as directed.

3.5. Develop implementing plans as required.

3.6. Identify and define requirements for COMAFSOC validation, development, and acquisition of SO-peculiar equipment and material.

3.7. Augment theater-assigned AFSOF forces in the performance of the theater special operations mission.

3.8. Employ effectively under austere basing conditions.

3.9. The 16 SOW is the only active duty special operations wing. It provides unique advantages to supplement and enhance the core special operations groups which make up the bulk of AFSOC's force structure. It combines active duty, CONUS based special operations fixed and rotary wing assets and support personnel under one commander with a common mission. It will be the initial response force for no-notice crises in theaters where no forward deployed forces are stationed. The 16 SOW will not deploy as a complete unit but must be able to provide detailed force modules of personnel and equipment necessary to rapidly deploy to austere locations and commence stand-alone operations. Detailed force modules reside in JOPES, PID 794DM. The 16 SOW has a coordinated mobility staff which can tailor force packages to ensure flexible and effective support for planning, staging, deployment, employment, and mission execution.

3.9.1. Deployment and Employment. (This section reflects and is based on unit DOC statements and AF Mission Essential Task Lists.) The 16 SOW:

3.9.1.1. Provides its full complement of aircraft and support personnel to meet tasked operational requirements.

3.9.1.2. Conducts special operations missions in support of USCINCSOC's worldwide commitments.

3.9.1.3. Provide fixed-wing, NVG, low-level, long-range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of SOF by airdrop or airland. Conduct airdrops in support of psychological operations. Maintain inflight refueling receiver capability. SHADOW and TALON I will provide fixed-wing, NVG, low-level, long-range, single ship/formation air refueling to SOF rotary-wing aircraft. TALON I and II will maintain hot refueling capability.

3.9.1.4. Provide rotary-wing, NVG, long-range, low-level infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of SOF. Maintain inflight refueling receiver, night water, shipboard and hot refueling capabilities.

3.9.1.5. Provide precision delivery of conventional munitions during night close air support, interdiction, armed reconnaissance and armed escort for special operations and conventional forces. Maintain inflight refueling receiver capability.

3.9.1.6. Deploys its members to form a theater AFSOC anywhere worldwide thus extending the existing theater special operations command and control system during a contingency or exercise. The theater AFSOC will be responsible for receiving, reviewing, and accepting tasking from the controlling unified/subunified command or JTF and then task subordinate units to plan and execute the mission.

3.9.2. Capability Standards. The 16 SOW must have the capability to:

3.9.2.1. Meet no-notice special operations requirements necessary to support deployments of other commands or services or conduct unilateral operations. The 16SOW will ensure it is capable of meeting CINCSOC's tasking.

3.9.2.2. Operate under adverse, bare base conditions.

3.9.3. In addition, the 16 SOW, as the USSOCOM proponent for aviation foreign internal defense (FID), will provide training and advise friendly foreign governments on internal defense and development programs. NOTE: Training in this instruction refers to those actions taken to train and/or advise host nation (HN) aircrews in the application of airpower. Specifically, "adaptive training" is accomplished to bring the HN to a point where they are capable enough to operate with US forces. Advising takes the form of teaching the development of airpower doctrine and use of air assets. The 6 SOS does not maintain a capability to perform basic aircrew training in either flying operations or aviation support activities. Training to enhance or improve those existing skills can be provided. Specifically, the 16 SOW will implement AFDD 2-7.1 and be able to:

3.9.3.1. Provide aviation FID forces with proper training in language, cultural, environmental, instructional and political-military affairs expertise.

3.9.3.2. Conduct liaison and coordination functions with US and host-nation aviation forces supporting combined operations.

3.9.3.3. Conduct combat aviation training and advisory activities for FID, coalition warfare and allied operations.

3.9.3.4. Advise and train foreign aviation units to conduct air operations.

3.9.3.5. Advise and train foreign aviation units to perform aircraft maintenance and related aviation logistics functions.

3.9.3.6. Assist host-nation aviation personnel to develop processes to accomplish mission planning.

3.9.3.7. Advise and train foreign aviation to conduct operations supporting infrastructure development and to perform civil assistance.

3.10. The 193 SOW is an Air National Guard unit. Its primary mission is providing psychological operation support with the EC-130 Commando Solo.

3.10.1. Deployment and Employment. (This section reflects and is based on unit DOC statements and AF Mission Essential Task Lists.) The 193 SOW:

3.10.1.1. Provides its full complement of aircraft and support personnel to meet tasked operational requirements.

3.10.1.2. Conducts special operations missions in support of USCINCSOC's worldwide commitments.

3.10.1.3. Provide airborne broadcasting capabilities for psychological operations missions and communications jamming.

3.10.1.4. Deploys its members to form an AFSOD under the theater AFSOC anywhere worldwide thus extending the existing theater special operations command and control system during a contingency or exercise.

3.10.2. Capability Standards. The 193 SOW must have the capability to:

3.10.2.1. Meet no-notice special operations requirements necessary to support deployments of other commands or services or conduct unilateral operations. The 193rd SOW will ensure it is capable of meeting CINCSOC's tasking.

3.10.2.2. Operate under adverse, bare base conditions.

3.11. The 919 SOW is an Air Force Reserve unit. It provides reserve component, CONUS based special operations fixed wing aircraft and support personnel.

3.11.1. Deployment and Employment. (This section reflects and is based on unit DOC statements and AF Mission Essential Task Lists.) The 919 SOW:

3.11.1.1. Provides its full complement of aircraft and support personnel to meet tasked operational requirements.

3.11.1.2. Conducts special operations missions in support of USCINCSOC's worldwide commitments.

3.11.1.3. Provide fixed-wing, NVG, low-level, long-range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of SOF by airdrop or airland. Conduct airdrops in support of psychological operations. Maintain inflight refueling receiver capability. SHADOW and TALON I will provide fixed-wing, NVG, low-level, long-range, single ship/formation air refueling to SOF rotary-wing aircraft. TALON I will maintain hot refueling capability.

3.11.1.4. Deploys its members to form an AFSOD under a theater AFSOC anywhere worldwide thus extending the existing theater special operations command and control system during a contingency or exercise.

3.11.2. Capability Standards. The 919 SOW must have the capability to:

3.11.2.1. Meet no-notice special operations requirements necessary to support deployments of other commands or services or conduct unilateral operations. The 919 SOW will ensure it is capable of meeting CINCSOC's tasking.

3.11.2.2. Operate under adverse, bare base conditions.

3.12. Special Operations Group (SOG). There are two SOGs supporting COMAFSOC in his worldwide commitment: 352 SOG at RAF Mildenhall, UK, and the 353 SOG at Kadena AB, Japan. The SOGs are assigned special operations squadrons that are able to deploy in the same manner the 16 SOW deploys. The only difference between the 16 SOW and the Groups is the size of the unit. Their deployments are all based on the same concept of support to USCINCSOC tasking on a no-notice time table.

3.12.1. Deployment and Employment. (This section reflects and is based on unit DOC statements and AF Mission Essential Task Lists.) Each active SOG must be able to:

3.12.1.1. Provide its full complement of aircraft to meet tasked operational requirements.

3.12.1.2. Conducts special operations missions in support of USCINCSOC's worldwide commitments.

3.12.1.3. Provide rotary-wing, NVG, long-range, low-level infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of SOF. Maintain inflight refueling receiver, night water, shipboard and hot refueling capabilities.

3.12.1.4. Provide fixed-wing, NVG, low-level, long-range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of SOF by airdrop or airland. Conduct airdrops in support of psychological operations. Maintain inflight refueling receiver capability. SHADOW and TALON I will provide fixed-wing, NVG, low-level, long-range, single ship/formation air refueling to SOF rotary-wing aircraft. TALON I will maintain hot refueling capability.

3.12.1.5. Provide the command and control structure for administration, intelligence, operations, logistics, and communication support. They may deploy with one or more SOF aviation, special tactics team and augmentation packages which provide additional planning and management capability.

3.12.1.6. Deploy special operations forces under the operational control of a unified/subunified commander.

3.12.1.7. Deploy an Air Force Special Operations Component to create/extend the existing special operations command and control system during a contingency or exercise.

3.12.2. Capability Standards. Each SOG must have the capability to:

3.12.2.1. Meet no-notice special operations requirements necessary to support deployments of other commands or services or conduct unilateral operations. Active units will ensure they are capable of meeting USCINCSOC's tasking.

3.12.2.2. Operate under adverse, bare base conditions.

3.13. The 720 Special Tactics Group (STG). This group, located at Hurlburt Field, Florida, has a wartime mission to provide a fast reaction, rapidly deployable ground forces to provide positive control of the air/ground interface during special operations and/or conventional forces. May be tasked to provide augmentation to other special operations/conventional forces.

3.13.1. Deployment and Employment. (This section reflects and is based on unit DOC statements and AF Mission Essential Task Lists.) Each unit must be able to:

3.13.1.1. Conducts special operations missions in support of USCINCSOC's worldwide commitments.

3.13.1.2. Deploy special tactics forces to support special operations worldwide. Designated special tactics forces supporting theater special operations are under the operational control of the unified/subunified commander.

3.13.2. Capability Standards. Each special tactics unit will have the capability to:

3.13.2.1. Conduct reconnaissance, surveillance, assessment, and establishment of potential/selected assault zone sites; and provide positioning/monitoring of terminal and en route navigational aids and target designation equipment. Units will be capable of responding within 12 hours of notification.

3.13.2.2. Provide VFR and limited IFR air traffic control, long-range secure command and control communications and a limited forward area refueling point (FARP) control capability.

3.13.2.3. Provide combat medical and trauma care, and establishes/operates casualty collection and transfer points.

3.13.2.4. Provide personnel recovery and casualty treatment/staging.

3.13.2.5. Provide limited ground direction for close air support missions within the objective area.

3.13.2.6. Employ by HALO/HAHO and static line parachute, SCUBA, watercraft or any other method required by the mission.

3.13.2.7. Remove obstacles with demolitions, gather and report ground intelligence and provide weather observations in the objective area.

3.13.2.8. Provide Air Force special operations training to US and Allied personnel and provide forces for special rescue operations.

3.13.2.9. Provide combat weather support to special operations and conventional forces.

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